

From the Regimental Command Sergeant Major

What a great time to assume the privileged responsibilities of serving you as your 10th Regimental Command Sergeant Major. At a keynote address at the 2008 AUSA Convention, Secretary of the Army Peter Geren declared 2009 as the “Year of the Noncommissioned Officer.” This theme is intended to be forward leaning with projected changes to our Noncommissioned Officers Education System (NCOES), Promotion Systems, and utilization as a professional Noncommissioned Officer Corps. This focus is in direct reflection of the hard work, dedication and professionalism that our NCOs have displayed over the years. I interpret his bottom line intent is that we are going to capitalize on a tremendous Army asset and make it better. I want to personally thank our professional NCOs within the Regiment for contributing to this honor and as stated by the Secretary of the Army, “for providing the glue that holds our force together, enabling us to accomplish the seemingly impossible, each and every day”.

Changes are out now with our restructured Advanced Leaders Course (formerly BNCOC) and Senior Leaders Course (formerly ANCOC). These changes are designed to better prepare our NCOs for future leadership responsibilities under the Select, Train, Promote methodology. We will now have Platoon level tasks being taught in the ALC and company level tasks being taught in the SLC here at the Maneuver Support Center NCOA. As we go through the first couple of iterations we will conduct thorough AARs soliciting student and field input so we can fine tune our Programs of Instruction (POI) ensuring our NCOs are getting the very best training that we can provide.

You will also note that in WLC, ALC and SLC the focus is shifting to bring NCOs back to the basics of leading not only in combat, but also in the garrison environment. The theme “Year of the NCO” will hopefully serve as a reminder to the leaders across our regiment that the deliberate mentorship of our NCOs is vital to the future of our force.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as we can during the 2009 Anniversary Week here at the Home of the Regiment. We will tentatively kick off the Warfighter Competition on 16 September so be watching the web page for updates and information. Preparations are already in the works here so start your selection process and prepare your teams now so that we can hold a world class competition honoring our young warriors. I would also like to encourage maximum participation from all three components this year. We work hard on the battlefield so why not take advantage of the opportunity and play hard here at the Home of the Regiment. A little friendly competition and fellowship goes a long way!

In closing I want to encourage all of you to stay safe while at home and abroad. Ensure that you pay personal attention to your families and friends and don’t hesitate to enjoy yourselves. Exercise common sense and please take care of one another.

“Of the Troops and For the Troops”

“NCOs Lead the Way”

RCSM Charles R. Kirkland

